The C.B.I. are pursuing these investigations.

The Government of India has also filed a complaint in the United States Federal District Court, Southern District New York against Union Carbide, claiming *inter-alia,* compensatory and punitive damages.

(b) Does not arise.

Alleged Embezzlement in Dhameta Post Office

2858. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the employees posted in the Post Office—Dhameta, District Kangra (HP) have recently made embezzlement in Government money and in the accounts of pensioners of defence personnel and widow pensioners;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint from the public in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the past some employees of the above mentioned Post Office have been transferred to another Post Offices in spite of the fact that there was nothing against them in the records whereas the guilty employees who have made the said embezzlement were posted in this Post Office; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is a fact that in the past, three departmental employees who were found to have been involved in a money order fraud case were transferred out of Dhameta Post Office. None of the three is working at Dhameta Post Office presently.

(d) Criminal prosecution has been launched against an extra departmental delivery agent, the main offender. Other official found negligent were departmentally dealt with.

Mining lease to M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited

2859. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat owned company M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC) has applied for mining lease for coal in an area of 358 hectares in Khakharthal, Tarnetar, Chandrelia in Surendranagar district in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have sanctioned the mining lease; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, by when the Government is likely to sanction the mining lease to M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) In July, 1979, it was decided by the Central Government that while continuing the existing policy of the Government carrying out coal mining operations in the country by its own undertakings, the State Governments might also be allowed to carry out coal mining operations in 'isolated small pockets" subject to certain conditions laid down in this regard.

In February, 1980 the State Government of Gujarat approached the Central Government for grant of mining lease in favour of Gujarat Minerals Development Corporation Limited for exploitation of coal in villages Khakharthal, Tarnetar, Chandrelia and Velala in District Surendranagar. They

inter-alia requested to allow the Gujarat Minerals Development Corporation to sell the coal to be mined by them on cost plus profit basis. As one of the conditions regarding sale of coal as per the grade_wise prices notified by the Central Government from time to time was not fulfilled, the State Government was informed that relaxation in the condition regarding selling of coal could not be granted as the coal prices were statutorily fixed by the Central Government. The State Government have again approached the Central Government for grant of permission for mining of coal by Gujarat Minerals Development Corporation in relaxation of the condition regarding prices of coal. No decision has been taken.

Energy Development Council

2860 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up an Energy Development Council to advise the administration about generation and distribution of power;

(b) if so, what will be the main functions of the Council;

(c) who will be its members and whether any representation of the State Governments in this Council will be made;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) to what extent its formation will help in better administration between State and Centre in regard to the power distribution; and

(f) whether the Council has drawn up any scheme for the integrated and accelerated development of energy resources of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (f) The composition and functions etc. of the proposed Energy Development Council are under consideration.

Mathura Refinery Expansion Scheme

2861. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Environment has cleared the Mathura refinery expansion scheme for inclusion in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the crude distillation unit of Mathura refinery will be revamped at a cost of only 5.5 crores to bring about the increase of 1.5 million tonnes in capacity; and

(c) if so, by when the expansion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is likely to be completed by December, 1987.

Efforts to improve Industrial growth

2862. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial growth in the country was recorded at 6.1 per cent during the first four months of 1985-86 with the number of foreign collaborations going up substantially;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the first half of 1985, the number of foreign collaborations approved went up by 31 per cent;

(c) if so, what is the total number of foreign collaborations approved so far; and

(d) what efforts are being made to increase the industrial growth during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) According to C.S.O. provisional index of industrial production